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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-15 | AID-01 | AMAD-01 | A-01 | CA-02 | CCO-00 |
| | CIAE-00 | SJK-01 | COR-01 | CTME-00 | C-01 | DEAE-00 | DODE-00 |
| | DS-00 | EB-01 | FBO-01 | HA-09 | H-01 | IMMC-01 | INM-01 |
| | INRE-00 | INR-01 | IO-19 | LAB-04 | L-03 | ADS-00 | M-01 |
| | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OCS-06 | OIC-02 | OIG-01 | OMB-01 | OPR-01 |
| | PA-01 | PM-01 | PRS-01 | P-01 | RP-10 | SCT-03 | SIL-01 |
| | SNP-01 | SP-01 | SR-01 | SSC-01 | SSO-00 | SS-01 | STR-20 |
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8236
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 01413

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, SNAR, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: PART 4: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 10:
NUGGETS

REF(S): CARACAS 01331 AND PREVIOUS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE COUP ATTEMPT NAMED:
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ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
HAS ESTABLISHED AN EXECUTIVE COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE
THE ATTEMPTED MILITARY COUP OF FEBRUARY 3-4. THE
COMMISSION IS MADE UP OF RETIRED MINISTERS OF DEFENSE
FILMO LOPEZ, HECTOR JURADO TORO, AND EX-CHIEF OF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HERMINIO FUENMAYOR AND TEO CAMARGO.

3. AD OPERATIONAL COMMAND MEETING TODAY:

ACCION DEMOCRATICA'S OPERATIONAL COMMAND COMMITTEE IS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 03 AUG 2006 200503206

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MEETING TODAY TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY SINCE THE F-4 (NOTE: THIS IS HOW THE PRESS NOW REFERS TO THE COUP ATTEMPT OF FEBRUARY 4.).

4. MINISTERS ARGUE OVER STATUS OF MILITARY PRISONERS:

THE PRESS REPORTS THAT, IN THE MOST RECENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, PLANNING MINISTER MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ DEMANDED THAT ARRESTED LEADERS OF THE COUP BE "DEMOTED" AND SHOWN IN "PRISONER GARB" JUST LIKE "NORIEGA IN PANAMA." THIS SUGGESTION WAS SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, IMELDA CISNEROS, BUT VIGOROUSLY REJECTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER FERNANDO OCHOA ANTICH. HE CONSIDERED IT AN "INSULT" TO COMPARE VENEZUELAN OFFICERS WITH THE PANAMANIAN, AND SAID THE SOLDIERS WOULD BE TRIED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF VENEZUELA.

5. LAURIA ACCUSES TABLANTE OF TIES TO COUP:

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 8, ASPIRING AD
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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARMELO LAURIA SAID THERE WAS EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF ARAGUA GOVERNOR CARLOS TABLANTE OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS SOCIALISM PARTY (MAS) IN THE COUP ATTEMPT. LAURIA REQUESTED THAT THE "CONDUCT OF GOVERNOR TABLANTE BE INVESTIGATED."

LAURIA DEMANDED THAT TABLANTE CLARIFY FIVE POINTS:

-- WHY HE HAD NOT INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE MOVEMENT OF TRUCKS, BUSES, ETC., TRANSPORTING ABOUT 1,600 WELL-ARMED MILITARY PERSONNEL THE NIGHT OF FEB 3;

-- WHERE THE GOVERNOR WAS BETWEEN 11.00 P.M. ON FEB 3 AND 4:30 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 4; DURING THAT TIME, ALL HIGHER ECHELON MILITARY OFFICERS WERE ARRESTED AND WERE THEREFORE UNABLE TO CONTACT THE GOVERNOR BY RADIO;

-- WHY HE RECENTLY HAD LUNCH, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF MEETINGS, WITH COUP LEADER CHAVEZ;

-- GIVEN THE ATTEMPTS TO ARREST OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE STATES OF ZULIA AND CARABOBO, WHY HAD THIS NOT HAPPENED WITH TABLANTE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GOVERNOR'S

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OFFICE WAS ABOUT A HUNDRED METERS FROM THE REBELS
HEADQUARTERS; AND,

-- WHY HAD THE GOVERNOR NEITHER CONDEMNED THE COUP NOR
MADE A SPEECH IN FAVOR OF HIS ARRESTED COLLEAGUES.

MAS SECRETARY GENERAL FREDDY MUNOZ REACTED TO LAURIA'S
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STATEMENT BY ASKING AD'S LEADERSHIP "TO CONTROL THIS
MADMAN." MUNOZ POINTED OUT THAT LAURIA COULD EASILY
CONSULT WITH "THE MILITARY CHIEFS OF ARAGUA WHO HAD
DEFENDED THE INSTITUTIONAL REGIME, THE MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, ALL OF
WHOM KNOW VERY WELL THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE GOVERNOR
(PLAYED) AT ALL TIMES, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE ACTIONS
LEADING TO THE REBELS SURRENDER."

6. RETIRED GENERAL DETAINED

ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 7, DISIP OFFICERS ARRESTED
RETIRED GENERAL JACOBO YEPEZ DAZA, WHO ALSO IS THE
PRESIDENT OF THE ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF RETIRED
OFFICERS. THE RETIRED OFFICERS HAD PLACED A MAJOR ADD
(REFTEL) IN EL UNIVERSAL ON FEBRUARY 7 THAT, ALTHOUGH
CONDEMNING THE COUP ATTEMPT BY YOUNGER OFFICERS,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 01413

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, SNAR, PGOV, VE

SUBJECT: PART 4: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 10:

NEVERTHELESS CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING

"VIOLATED CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON WHICH THE

VENEZUELAN DEMOCRATICOVDBUBLISHING OF EL NACIONAL. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, EL

NACIONAL DID NOT APPEAR, WHILE EL DIARIO HAD A NUMBER OF

BLANK SPOTS, INCLUDING ITS EDITORIAL. THE SUSPENSION OF

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AGREED TO BY CONGRESS GIVES THE

GOV HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH FREEDOM OF

EXPRESSION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS

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 TAKING THESE ACTIONS TO PREVENT THE MEDIA FROM MAKING
 "HEROS" OUT OF THE "FASCISTS" WHO ATTEMPTED TO TAKE
 POLITICAL POWER BY FORCE. CAP HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT
 "THE SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES WILL BE VERY LIMITED, AND
 WILL NOT LAST VERY LONG. IT IS AN INSTRUMENT
 ESTABLISHED BY THE CONSTITUTION FOR SITUATIONS OF THIS
 NATURE."

THE CENTRAL INFORMATION OFFICE (OCI) OF THE GOVERNMENT
 ON FEBRUARY 6 MADE A "CORDIAL BUT STRONG APPEAL TO THE
 MEDIA, (FOR) EXEMPLARY CONDUCT CONTRIBUTING TO THE
 TRANQUILITY AND CONFIDENCE NEEDED BY THE CITIZENS ... OR
 OTHERWISE SEVERE SANCTIONS WILL BE APPLIED, AS
 CONTEMPLATED WITHIN THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTIONAL
 FRAMEWORK."

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AD PRESIDENT HUMBERTO CELLI TOLD THE PRESS "THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PRETEND TO ABUSE THE SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND ... THE SUSPENSION WILL NOT LAST MORE THAN THE 10 DAYS THAT THE CONSTITUTION FORESEES." THE GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR ACTED TO GUARANTEE THE "STATE OF TRANQUILITY OF THE POPULATION."

ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM, "THE GOVERNMENT MUST REINSTITUTE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MEDIA ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT, SINCE THEY ONLY REFLECT THE SITUATION THAT THE COUNTRY IS LIVING." ESCOVAR ALSO "CATEGORICALLY" DENIED THE ASSERTION OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR THAT HIS (ESCOVAR'S) OFFICE AGREES WITH CENSORSHIP. ESCOVAR EXPLAINED THAT HIS OFFICE ONLY

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DETERMINED THE "LEGALITY" OF THE DECREE SUSPENDING
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

ESCOVAR ALSO REVEALED THAT HIS OFFICE WAS SENDING OFFICERS TO THE VARIOUS MILITARY BASES AND PRISONS TO ENSURE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE DETAINED ARE RESPECTED. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MENTIONED, IN PARTICULAR, THE CASE OF RETIRED GENERAL YEPEZ DAZA HELD BY THE JUDICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICE (DISIP). HIS OFFICE ALSO INTENDS TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF KILLED AMONG THE MILITARY, REBELS AND CIVILIANS. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HARSHLY CRITICIZED SENATOR DAVID MORALES BELLO FOR SAYING "DEATH TO THE COUP PLOTTERS" IN CONGRESS. FOR ESCOVAR, "THIS TYPE OF WAR CRY REMINDS (HIM) OF THE FASCISTS OF THE 1930'S" AND IS INADMISSIBLE IN A NATION BASED ON RIGHTS LIKE VENEZUELA.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION (CNP), FRANCISCO SOLORZANO FRASO, HAS CALLED FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF ARTICLE 66 OF THE CONSTITUTION (LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION) BECAUSE "THE COUNTRY NEEDS AT THIS MOMENT NOT COERCION BUT OPENNESS AND CONFIDENCE." MEANWHILE, COPEI SECRETARY GENERAL EDUARDO FERNANDEZ, TOLD THE PRESS "IT MUST CONTRIBUTE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL NORMALCY." THE PRESS HAS DULY NOTED THAT, SINCE THE ATTEMPTED COUP, FERNANDEZ HAS MET WITH CAP A NUMBER OF TIMES.

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8. CALDERA -- ADMIRER BY MANY FOR "SAYING LIKE IT IS"

EX-PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA'S SPEECH IN CONGRESS ON THE
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ORIGIN OF THE COUP ATTEMPT CONTINUES TO REVERBERATE
THROUGH THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE. EL NACIONAL ON
FEBRUARY 9 PUBLISHED A POLL THAT SHOWED AN ASTONISHING
69 PERCENT APPROVAL OF CALDERA'S SPEECH, WITH ONLY 2.5
PERCENT "COMPLETELY AGAINST IT." ABOUT 15 PERCENT SAID
THEY "NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE". OP ED PIECES
FAVORABLE TO CALDERA CONTINUE TO BE PUBLISHED. FOR
EXAMPLE, ON FEBRUARY 8 EL NACIONAL CARRIED TWO FAVORABLE
PIECES ON CALDERA; ONE AUTHOR, WHO HAD LISTENED TO THE
SPEECH IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS, SAID THEY ALL FELT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 01413

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TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, SNAR, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: PART 4: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 10:
THAT "VENEZUELA SPOKE"; THE OTHER PIECE SAID: "CALDERA
SPOKE, AND HOW HE SPOKE| HE PRESENTED AN X-RAY OF THE
CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. HE DID A
DIAGNOSTIC, HE PRESENTED A BALANCE SHEET, AND HE SHOWED
THE WARTS."

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